

a man in the service as a private soldier it destroys his entire earning power, except to the extent of \$396 a year. The government, in fact, not only conscripts the man's life, but it conscripts all of his earning power beyond the \$396 per annum it pays him. Having, therefore, reduced the soldier's earning power so that he is unable to pay the excessive insurance rates (58 per thousand) demanded by private companies, it is the imperative duty of the government to make restitution at least to the extent of giving the drafted man the chance to buy insurance on a peace time basis.

Who, with blood in his veins, patriotism in his heart, and justice in his soul can deny to the men and their families who must suffer, more than any other class of our people, the horrors of this world carnage and war, these poor compensations? Who would submit to torturing agonies of soul and mind our gallant soldiers and sailors by withholding from them the knowledge that their wives and helpless children will not be dependent for support upon charity while they are fighting at the front? Humanity and justice cry out against such monstrous indifference as that would be.

It has been intimated that the organized insurance companies of the United States may oppose this legislation. I do not believe it. It is not conceivable that in a time like this men would be so callous and visionless. Men of vision and humanity will get behind this bill and not in front of it. But if any such effort should be made, who is willing to listen to the selfish cry of organized insurance companies that their interests may suffer if the government dares to be humane and just to its heroes? Can we for one instant permit any selfish interest, however organized and wherever existent, to stand in the way of humanity and justice? Shall we subordinate the interests of the nation, shall we imperil the cause of liberty in the world by failing to do justice to our fighting men and their dependents, in order that the selfish interests of any private corporations or organizations may be conserved? I can not believe that any organized effort will be made to prevent this just legislation, but if such an attempt should be made, we should welcome the opportunity to arouse the conscience and soul of America against any such selfish purpose or demand.

It has been intimated, also, that those who are wedded to the pension system might oppose this measure. I do not believe that. This insurance bill does not affect existing pension laws, although it is intended to be a substitute for and to make unnecessary future pension laws to cover this war. Nor does it interfere with or in any manner change or modify provisions already made for the gallant men who fought in our previous wars. They are not disturbed. I believe that every old soldier who fought in any American war for his country's rights and liberties will support this measure, because nobody knows better than these old soldiers how derelict our government and every government has been in the past in doing justice to its fighting men and their dependents. They above all others should want justice done to those who suffer most for the services they render to their country.

America is holding aloft the torch of liberty in the world. Can she hold it aloft with honor if her soul is dead to the sufferings of her own children? Can she refuse to do justice to her own dead and dying and suffering while she claims to be rendering a service to the rest of mankind?

Let us not hesitate to go forward in this fight for America's rights, for liberty and justice with all the might and power and courage of the nation; let us, at the same time, make our efforts ten thousand times more effective by setting an example to the world of what a mighty, just, humane and courageous nation can do for its own people who are called upon to make supreme sacrifices in order that the world shall be free.

President Wilson has excited the harsh criticism of a number of the big manufacturers and exporters who can not understand why he should have interfered to prevent them from continuing to get the big price from the allies of America that they were able to extort before we entered the war. Isn't business still business? they demanded to know, even if we are loaning the money to pay the bills. A cash register seems to be the only instrument to determine some men's patriotic content.

Press Comments on Air Reprisals

With French aviators now bombing German towns in reprisal for German aerial raids on France, comes word that the English government has yielded to the country-wide demand that it resort to similar action. Premier Lloyd George is quoted as saying: "We will give it all back to them and we will give it to them soon. We shall bomb Germany with compound interest."

Regrettable as it is that the point has been reached where such reprisals on Germany are thought necessary, it does not obscure the fact that human endurance has its limitations. France and England, by the length of time they withheld such action, have proved abundantly their aversion to adopting it as long as it could be avoided. They will be so credited by history. It will be recognized that Germany by its repeated murdering of women and children drove the people attacked to a fury that could not be expected, from the very limitations of human nature, to hesitate to resort to any means to stop and punish the aggressors. Logically it will be recognized that if such terrorism has proved satisfactory enough to Germany to cause her to keep it up for years it may prove equally effective against her. A taste of terrorism their leaders have been applying to others may do much to stimulate the desire of the German people for peace.

The only thing left to say is that if it must be a case of fighting furies with the methods of furies, the sooner there is resort to them the sooner the Prussian barbarians will be brought to a halt. It is easy enough at a safe distance from the terrorists to bewail the thought of fighting them in kind, but how about it if women and children were being murdered every few days in Pittsburgh by aerial invaders? That is the test. Speak against the spirit of vengeance as we may, there is much of excuse for it in the men who see innocent women and children murdered about them. This, of course, brings up the thought of the effect on the men of Germany. It is but natural that it will infuriate some of them. On the other hand, it may spur the great majority who have not been affected by it to urge, in the hope of saving their families that their government abandon its ruthlessness against the innocents of other lands. Here is one of the prime objects of the reprisal. If it does not work in this way, then, of course, there will be the hope that the Germans may be overwhelmed by the methods with which they have sought to reduce others.

Whenever was war a parlor game?—Pittsburgh Post.

AIR REPRISALS

It is announced in London that the British government is seriously considering, if it has not already decided upon, reprisals for German air attacks. Intimation is given that this is a military question at present, the dispatch of airplanes for the purpose of reprisal depending upon whether they can be spared from the ordinary military service in France. Evidently there is now no doubt on the score of policy, which formerly deterred the government at London from engaging in any form of reprisal. This conclusion may have been hastened by the action of the French, who have already sent air raiders on two occasions recently over the German boundaries for the bombardment of cities, in reprisal for the bombing of French cities. No returns are, of course, available as to the damage that has been done in Germany by these French attacks. The striking fact, however, is evident that the French are capable of carrying out air raids on a large scale at long distances. The French aviators covered approximately 350 miles in their flights.

The French have an advantage over the British in this respect, as they can launch their airplane raids from points fairly near German territory. Naturally they will not bombard any of the cities in Alsace or Lorraine, but will seek the strictly German centers. From Nancy, which is safely behind the firing line, the French can reach Heidelberg, Stuttgart, Frankfurt or Cologne within a radius of 160 miles straight flight, with many smaller cities and towns at shorter ranges. Berlin itself is about 400 miles from Nancy. Essen, the center of the German arms

industry, is 200 miles in straight flight from Nancy. The distance from London to Cologne is about 310 miles, or from Dover, which would be the natural starting point from British territory about 250. The nearest German territory from Dover is 200 miles by air line. It would not, of course, be necessary for the British airmen to fly from England. They could fly from just back of their lines in France, in which case it would be possible to reach Cologne with about 190 miles of straight flying. From this same point back of the British lines to Berlin is about 475 miles.

Evidently it is felt in London that there is no reason for withholding longer from reprisals, inasmuch as the Germans are apparently already doing their utmost in the way of air raiding. Increased "frightfulness" may be possible, as the Germans have progressed from one degree of terrorism to another in the course of the campaign, but there is no warrant now for withholding those blows in reprisal that are prompted by every consideration of self-defense.—Washington Star.

AIR-RAID REPRISALS

Regrettable as it may seem that the record of the allies could not have remained, despite all provocation, free of anything remotely resembling Germany's murderous warfare against non-combatants, it must nevertheless be recognized that the Teuton barbarians have carried systematic murder by air raids to a point where only reprisals in kind offer any hope of checking it.

Monday night German bomb droppers, flying over London, brought the total of dead and maimed by air raids on that city up to 51 killed and 248 injured since September 24. The same day another German airman dropped bombs on two hospitals behind the British lines on the western war front, killing three British nurses and several wounded soldiers.

No nation can be expected to permit the murder of women, children and the helpless wounded to go on indefinitely without trying every possible means calculated to terrorize the murderers. The French decided earlier, and in reprisal for recent German raids on Dunkirk and other towns in France, French airmen this week bombed Stuttgart, Treves, Coblenz and Frankfurt. The British public is now, more and more, loudly calling for reprisals. It seems not unlikely that British scruple may yield to the demand for vengeance.

After all, would Americans feel or act differently?

Deliberately repeated attacks upon defenceless non-combatants lower a belligerent nation to a plane of savagery where massacre as a retaliatory measure is recognized as necessary.

It is hard to see wounded soldiers murdered on their cots, or little children blown to pieces as they come from their lessons, without preparing for those guilty of such crimes the only punishment barbarians can understand.—New York World.

MR. BRYAN'S RULE OF PATRIOTISM

There is no better rule of patriotism for the guidance of all pacifists, conscientious objectors and sticklers for the rights of free speech than that laid down by William J. Bryan in an address in Chicago.

After asserting that the citizen who insists upon criticising the war policies of the government is "a promoter of anarchy," Mr. Bryan said:

"I don't know how long the war will last, but I know that the quickest way out is straight through. Any division or discussion now would simply prolong the war and make it more costly in lives and treasure."

No man hates war more bitterly than Mr. Bryan, but the war has come in spite of everything that was done to avoid it, and Mr. Bryan's way of ending it is to beat Germany as soon as possible. That is the way of all men who see straight, and Mr. Bryan is doing a great public service in bringing the issue into the open.—New York World.

Those chaps down on the appropriations committee in Washington must often wonder how in the world the Hon. Charles C. Pinckney ever got undying fame by declaring that this country has "millions for defense." In their minds in these days of billion dollar bills, Col. Pinckney must be a synonym for piker.